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Arabs Accuse U.S. Of Sending Military Personnel To Fight For ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Oct. 19 (JTA)--A wave of anti-American fury mounted in the Arab world this weekend over charges that the United States was permitting its citizens to fight for Israel. The charges were made on Friday by Dr. Mohammed H. el-Zayyat, permanent representative of Egypt to the United Nations, in a letter to Secretary-General U. Thant. Dr. el-Zayyat charged that an "official statement" by the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv confirmed that U.S. citizens are permitted to serve in Israel's armed forces without losing their American citizenship. He charged that this "does not differ much from the method by which the United States began its war in Vietnam."

A State Department official said here Saturday that the charges, widely published in the Arab press, represented a "gross distortion" of American policy and were intended to incite Arab opinion against the U.S. Officials here disclosed that the U.S. Ambassador to the UN, Charles W. Yost, handed a letter to Mr. Thant yesterday denying that American military personnel were serving in Israel's armed forces. State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said Arab allegations that Americans are flying U.S. Phantom and Skyhawk jet aircraft recently sold to Israel "are absolutely without foundation and we totally reject them."

The statement that aroused Arab wrath was made by an un-named official of the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv last week and stemmed from a 1967 U.S. Supreme Court decision involving the interpretation of dual citizenship. The official referred to that decision in replying to a question by an Israeli newspaper reporter. He noted that the Supreme Court had held that U.S. citizenship "is not automatically lost by performance of certain acts such as serving in a foreign army" or voting in foreign elections.

The State Department said yesterday that a small but unknown number of U.S. citizens were serving as individuals in Israel's armed forces. Mr. McCloskey explained that when a Jew enters Israel under an immigrant's visa, he is automatically granted Israeli citizenship but does not lose U.S. citizenship unless he formally renounces it. The same applies to American nationals in any foreign country friendly to the U.S. Mr. McCloskey said that Americans holding Israeli citizenship are subject to call-up for military service just as the U.S. drafts resident aliens into its own armed forces.

The 1967 Supreme Court decision was based on such a case. An American, Beys Afroyim, who was deprived of his U.S. citizenship when he voted in an Israeli election, successfully sued to have it restored. (Premier Golda Meir of Israel said in an election speech in Tel Aviv today that "Israel has never, does not and will never ask any country in the world to send soldiers to fight for us.")

In his letter, which he asked to be circulated as an official document of the Security Council, Dr. el-Zayyat said that with the Tel Aviv embassy statement, the U.S. "commences today a new phase in its assistance to Israel through the joining of American citizens in Israeli armed forces. Consequently, the U.S. is contributing to the aggressive war which is being launched by Israel against the Arab countries; a method which does not differ much from the method by which the United States began its war in Vietnam."

The letter goes on to assail the U.S., accusing it of violating the UN Charter and its obligations and of undermining the Nov. 22, 1967 Security Council resolution on Mideast peace "through providing Israel with arms and planes, and encouraging American citizens to take arms under the Israeli flag against the Arab people."

(Donald Bergus, chief of American interests section at the Spanish Embassy in Cairo, called on the Egyptian Foreign Ministry's undersecretary, Salah Golar, yesterday to explain American policy that permits U.S. citizens to serve in the armed forces of friendly foreign powers without losing their citizenship. The Spanish Embassy handles American interests in Egypt since Cairo broke relations with Washington during the Six-Day War.

(But the explanations apparently had little effect in the Arab capitals. The Jordanian newspaper Al Destour charged yesterday that the U.S. had become a recruiting center for ISRAEL. The Beirut newspaper Al Uruba accused the U.S. of committing "direct aggression" on a Vietnam pattern and charged that America "enters the war against the Arabs." The semi-official Cairo newspaper Al Ahram said the statement by the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv "confirmed beyond doubt" the presence of American military personnel in Israel's armed forces and hinted that American pilots might be flying the Israeli Phantoms and Skyhawks. The Cairo newspaper Akhbar Al Yom suggested that the U.S. was planning to establish a military air base in Israel to replace the Wheelus Air Force base in Libya from which it is being ousted by the new Libyan military regime. Egypt's official Middle East News Agency reported that Libya had ordered its UN delegation to support Egypt's protest and to deliver one of its own. Lebanese and Syrian newspapers gave banner headlines to the Egyptian letter to Mr. Thant.

American-Born Youth Killed Accidentally In Israeli Army Training Camp

TEL AVIV, Oct. 19 (JTA)--A 19-year-old American-born Israeli student was killed accidentally at

an Israeli military camp while training for a second lieutenant's commission in the Israeli Army. He was identified as David Eller of Stony Brook, N.Y., the son of Albert Eller, an official of the United Jewish Appeal in New York. Mr. Eller, who arrived in Israel ignorant of his son's death, told reporters here that young Eller's commander described the accident as a "one in a million freak."

According to the father, David went to Israel 10 years ago with his mother Lili, who is divorced, and his older brother Raanan. "David never made a conscious choice between America and Israel. He grew up all-Israeli and it just never occurred to him that he was anything else," Mr. Eller said. David was studying for a master's degree in Arabic studies at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. According to his father, "he dreamed of being Israel's first Ambassador to Cairo."

Envoy Sees U.S.-Israel Agreed On Objectives But Differing On Tactics

NEW YORK, Oct. 19 (JTA)--Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin expressed a high degree of satisfaction today with the state of American-Israeli relations although he stressed that Israel and the United States do not see eye to eye on all issues and Israel is not entirely happy with some phases of American Mideast policy.

The Ambassador told nearly 300 outstanding American Jewish industrialists and financiers attending a steering committee session of the American regional committee of the Council for Israel's Economic Development here that American policy on arms for Israel had progressed from the arms embargo that the U.S. had enforced during the first 10 years of Israel's existence to a policy of not permitting a change in the Middle East balance of power that would allow Israel's destruction by military force. He affirmed that Israel was "quite satisfied" with the present policy of the U.S. Government on the arms issue.

Gen. Rabin told the conference that Israel has made a case to U.S. Government agencies on the need for economic aid, particularly in the form of credits on military purchases. He disclosed that the U.S. had given Israel only one-third credit on its recent purchase of 50 F-4 Phantom jet fighter planes and that Israel was obliged to pay two-thirds of the purchase price on delivery.

Gen. Rabin said that Israel had explained to American governmental agencies that the present situation of urgent need of credits would prevail for from four to five years, after which time, Israel would be in a much stronger position industrially and economically. He noted difficulties involved in foreign aid by the U.S. today and the "many pressures" on the Government to cut foreign spending and divert funds to domestic needs. Israel's immediate need, he said, was better credit terms.

The envoy said that what Israel expected and wanted from the U.S. was, first, to make it possible for Israel to purchase the amount of arms required to defend itself; second, a policy in the international arena not to permit the present Mideast situation to be changed except in the context of achieving a genuine peace; third, that the U.S. do whatever is possible to "localize" the Arab-Israeli conflict and prevent other powers from becoming involved in direct hostilities against Israel; and fourth, in view of the outlook for a continued state of no-peace, no-war, to assist Israel in carrying the heavy economic burden that the present situation puts on it.

Gen. Rabin saw an identity of objectives of both countries regarding peace in the Mideast, but said that the divergencies came on the technique of achieving peace. Reviewing the pressures on Washington to negotiate with the Soviet Union and noting that the Russians were not interested in a real peace in the Mideast, the diplomat said that the danger in the bilateral talks could come if the Americans tired and gave up too much in the interest of agreement. The Russians, he said, free of the pressure of public opinion, could hold out indefinitely for American concessions.

Report U.S. Studying Detailed Soviet Proposals For Mideast Settlement

LONDON, Oct. 19 (JTA)--Details of parallel U.S. and Soviet plans for a Mideast peace settlement have come to light here, according to press association reports. The Associated Press did not indicate the source of its information but said Moscow's proposals were submitted to Washington in mid-June as a counter to a U.S. 13-point program advanced the previous month. According to the report, the proposals by both Big Powers are under active discussion in Washington by Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin and Joseph J. Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs. The diplomats hope to make enough progress to permit UN peace envoy Gunnar V. Jarring to resume his mission in Arab and Israeli capitals in the next month or so, the AP said.

The dispatch indicated that the super-powers have reached some agreements in principle but differ on many matters. A major proposal by Moscow called for the establishment by the UN Security Council of a Big Four watchdog commission to supervise Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories, the demilitarization of the occupied areas and the garrisoning of potential trouble spots such as the Gaza Strip and Sharm el-Sheikh by a UN-appointed international force which would not necessarily exclude the Major Powers.

The AP did not say what the U.S. reaction to these proposals was but claimed that "both the Russians and the Americans explicitly accepted the need for Israel's withdrawal from occupied territories." The U.S. however wants a timetable to be worked out by Dr. Jarring while the Russians insist that it should be spelled out in advance. "The texts disclose that Moscow and Washington agree that war should bring no territorial gain," the AP said. The U.S. is holding out for agreed border adjustments between Israel and the Arab states, it reported. Both powers have agreed to leave to the very end the problem of Jerusalem. Both also agree that Egypt should open the Suez Canal to navigation by ships of all nations, including Israel. The U.S. insists on Egypt's obligation to keep open the Straits of Tiran, the AP said.

'Daily Express' Says Israel Captured New Soviet Tanks In Egypt, Sent Them To Britain

LONDON, Oct. 19 (JTA) -- Four modern Soviet tanks which form the backbone of armored divisions facing Allied troops in West Germany were captured by Israel when it raided Egyptian positions on the Gulf of Suez and have been sent to Britain for tests, the Daily Express says. The report, by the newspaper's usually well-informed defense correspondent, Chapman Pincher, has been denied by British and Israeli defense officials. But the newsman insists on his accuracy and says "an official denial was inevitable because of the diplomatic implications."

Mr. Pincher said that the captured T-62 medium tanks and their powerful 115-mm. guns, which until now Western military experts had not yet inspected, were taken by the military forces that crossed the Suez Gulf on Sept. 9. He reported that the tanks were sent to Kirkcudbright in Scotland for firing range tests against the modern British Chieftain tanks which Israel is seeking to buy in quantity.

He said that the tanks, which are regarded as far superior to any captured during the Six-Day War, had been painted with Israeli markings before being shipped to Britain. The London Sun disputed Mr. Pincher's story saying that while tanks had been shipped from Israel to Britain, they are Chieftains. It was reported a few days ago that Chieftains had been sent for tests to Israel.

Meanwhile, a retired British Army colonel has been appointed head of a Chieftain tank sales operation in Israel although the British Government has not yet officially consented to the deal. The retired Tank Corps soldier has already spent several weeks in Israel choosing sites for tank testing and preparing training programs for Israeli tank crews, the Daily Mail reported. If the deal is not approved by the Government, the Israelis will call it off and buy tanks from the United States, the Daily Mail reported. Meanwhile, the British plan to proceed with the sale of Chieftains to Libya, an arrangement made before the Sept. 1 leftist pro-Nasser military coup which ousted 79-year-old King Idris.

The Defense Ministry decided to go ahead with the sale despite the security danger that the Chieftains may be made available to the Russians through the Egyptians. The Government had agreed originally to send Libya the tanks, after King Idris had sought to protect his rich oilfields against Egyptian or Algerian takeover. Britain's current reasoning is that the contract was signed in April and legally binding and that if it is broken, the Libyans might repudiate their treaties for oil supplies badly needed by Britain since the closure of the Suez Canal.

Writing about the Sept. 9 capture of the Soviet T-62s, Mr. Pincher said that Israeli intelligence had earlier confirmed their arrival in Egypt. The tanks have been in service with the Kremlin's frontline troops for only two years and their 115-mm. gun is heavier than any on Israel's existing tanks, he said. The new tanks were moved down to the Red Sea coast for desert trials because the Egyptians assured the Russians that they would be safe from attack. In addition to coveting the tanks for military tests, the Israelis wanted to show the Russians that they were making a major security blunder in supplying front-line weapons to their Arab clients, Mr. Pincher wrote.

Common Market, Israel To Open Preferential Trade Agreement Talks In A Few Weeks

LUXEMBOURG, Oct. 19 (JTA) -- Negotiations between Israel and the European Economic Community (Common Market) on a preferential trade agreement are expected to begin in a few weeks. The EEC's Council of Ministers last Friday authorized its Executive Commission to enter in to the talks. (In Jerusalem, Foreign Minister Abba Eban and Finance Minister Zeev Sharef hailed the decision "as a great step forward" in Israel's pursuit of an association with the EEC).

The proposed five-year preferential agreement would enable France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg to lower customs duties on certain Israeli industrial goods by 45 percent and to cut duties on certain agricultural items like oranges, grapefruits, avocados and mangos by 40 percent.

The decision followed France's waiving of its veto which it had used against Israel's applications for the last two years. The Council of Ministers also decided to open exploratory talks with Egypt and Lebanon.

5,000 Czech Jews Abroad Illegally Are Now Subject To Prosecution

LONDON, Oct. 19 (JTA) -- Some 5,000 Jews are among an estimated 28,000 Czechs now subject to prosecution for having left their country without exit visas or who stayed abroad after the Warsaw Pact armies invaded their country on Aug. 21, 1968, official sources in Prague report. The Government has ordered relatives and friends of persons abroad illegally who are using their otherwise vacant apartment to surrender them. The Czech nationals who remain abroad could lose their jobs and right to social security benefits.

Appeal 12-Year Sentence Against Fritz, Woehrn, Former Aide Of Adolf Eichmann

BONN, Oct. 19 (JTA) -- The State Prosecutor in West Berlin has filed an appeal against the 12-year sentence imposed last week on Fritz Woehrn, former aide to Nazi deportation chief Adolf Eichmann, on mass murder charges. The prosecution had originally asked a life sentence for the 64-year-old man.

Justice authorities disclosed that the arrest last week of Wilhelm Ratke, on charges of participation in the mass murder of 1,000 Jewish women and children in Russia in 1941, is part of a wider investigation against SS (Elite Corps) members involved in war crimes around Kiev.

SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL FILES HIGH COURT BRIEF ON TAXING RELIGIOUS PROPERTY

NEW YORK, Oct. 19 (JTA) -- The Synagogue Council of America has joined Catholic and Protestant bodies in filing a "friend-of-the-court" brief with the United States Supreme Court opposing the taxation of religious property and activities on grounds that it would violate the First Amendment of the Constitution. The Synagogue Council represents the lay and rabbinical branches of Reform, Orthodox, and Conservative Judaism in America. Its co-petitioners are the U.S. Catholic Conference and the National Council of Churches.

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear a suit brought by Frederick Walz, a New York taxpayer, against the New York City Tax Commission. Mr. Walz's complaint alleges that the tax exemption granted churches and synagogues violates the First and 14th Amendments governing freedom of religion and the separation of church and state. The case is viewed as one of the most important church-state litigations to come before the Supreme Court in this decade.

The Synagogue Council's brief maintains that while the Government can levy no taxes in support of religious activities or institutions, "everything in the history of the separation of church and state indicates that this prohibition is bilateral, and the Government must not levy a tax upon religious property or activity to support itself." The neutrality prescribed by the Constitution in the relations between Government and religion must be reciprocal, according to the brief. The Synagogue Council maintained further that taxation of property used for religious purposes would abridge the free exercise of religion. It conceded, however, the right to tax property owned by religious institutions that is used for non-religious business activities.

COMMITTEE OF CONCERN FORMED BY GEN. CLAY TO AID IRAQI JEWRY

NEW YORK, Oct. 19 (JTA) -- A Committee of Concern has been formed to concentrate world attention on political trials and hangings of Jews, Christians and other minority members in Iraq, as well as on discrimination in other Mideast countries.

The chairman is Gen. Lucius D. Clay (Ret.), a former commander of the United States forces in Europe and now a corporate executive. The Committee is made up of important figures in religion, business, arts and sciences, universities, public affairs and civil rights.

Gen. Clay said that his Committee would seek the release of Jews imprisoned in Iraq, would attempt to ensure Iraqi Jews' freedom of movement within that country and would try to facilitate their emigration. He indicated that a number of countries, including the United States and Canada, said they would accept Iraqi refugees if the Baghdad Government permitted its Jews to leave. An impetus for creation of the Committee was two sets of executions by Iraq this year of men, including 11 Jews, on charges of spying for Israel and the U.S. Gen. Clay expressed fear that further espionage trials and executions may lie ahead.

BROOKLYN RABBINICAL PRESIDENT APPEALS TO CHRISTIANS TO CONDEMN VANDALISM

NEW YORK, Oct. 19 (JTA)--The president of the Brooklyn Board of Rabbis appealed today to Catholic and Protestant clergymen to join him in condemning vandalism against houses of worship after a Coney Island synagogue was found desecrated last week. Rabbi Kurt Klappholz made his appeal after Morris Glassman, president of Congregation Chevra Bikur Cholem, reported that the synagogue had been ruined.

Rabbi Mendel Epstein said that he and a member of the congregation, which has thirty regular worshippers, most of them elderly, found the vandalism when they arrived Friday morning for services. It was the second time that the synagogue had been vandalized in a month. Damage was estimated in the thousands of dollars.

Angry congregation members, asserting that abandoned homes in the neighborhood are hiding places for drug addicts, muggers and vandals, demanded that the three mayoral candidates visit the synagogue. Rabbi Epstein said "we found prayer books thrown all over the place, and human excrement smear in the aisles." He added that the Torah Scroll and the Ark in the sanctuary had been left unattended. Police said they were looking for a gang of six Negro and Puerto Rican youths suspected of the vandalism. A patrolman was placed on guard at the house of worship.

ABRAHAM MENES, BUNDIST AND BIBLICAL SCHOLAR, DEAD AT 72

NEW YORK, Oct. 19 (JTA)--Funeral services will be held here Tuesday for Abraham Menes, 72, a scholar and author of studies relating Socialism to the Prophets, who died here Saturday. Interment will be in Israel. Mr. Menes, a member of the staff of the Jewish Daily Forward since 1947, was a graduate of the Mirer and Grodno yeshivas in Poland and was active in the pre-war Jewish community in Grodno. He was an active member of the Bund, the Jewish Socialist Party. He settled in Paris after the rise of Hitler and, with his family, was brought here by the Jewish Labor Committee in 1940. He was one of the original founders in Europe of YIVO, the Jewish Scientific Institute.

M. EDWIN WEINER, CLEVELAND COMMUNAL LEADER, DEAD AT 53

CLEVELAND, Oct. 19 (JTA)--Services were held here for M. Edwin Weiner, 53, former general chairman of the 1969 Jewish Welfare Fund Appeal, who died Oct. 15. He was a member of the board of the Jewish Community Federation Welfare Fund for many years and was recently named to the National Executive Committee of the United Jewish Appeal. Since 1960 he had made six study mission trips to Israel.